

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 /071 W

-----210741Z 038389 /20

R 210500Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1019

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1539

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, YE

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF STATE ON INTERNAL SITUATION

1. DURING CONVERSATION ON APRIL 19, MINISTER OF STATE AHMAD ABDU SAID TOLD ME THAT HE HAS RECOMMENDED TO PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI THAT "STRONG ACTION" BE TAKEN AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS OF THE RECENT ASSASSINATION OF QADI AL-AHJRI WHOM IT IS NOW BELIEVED WAS KILLED BY THE SINAN ABU LUHUM/MUHSIN AL-AYNI GROUP. SAID CONTINUED THAT ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PRESERVE ITS CREDIBILITY AT A TIME WHEN BOTH THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT ARE COOPERATING IN ORDER TO WEAKEN THE AL-HAMDI REGIME. (SAID MENTIONED AS AN EXAMPLE OF LEFTIST ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES, RECENT LEFTIST UNREST AT THE UNIVERSITY WHERE PRESIDENT AL-AHMDI FINALLY HAD TO SUSPEND THE STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS.)

2. SAID CONTINUED THAT UNFORTUNATELY IN HIS VIEW PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI IS "TOO CIVILIZED" TO ORDER FOR EXAMPLE THE

RETALIATORY ASSASSINATION OF SUCH FIGURES AS SINANABU LUHUM, WHICH COULD BE DONE QUICKLY AND EASILY. SAID CONTINUED THAT, MOREOVER, HE DOUBTED THA AL-HAMDI WILL
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ALLOW HIMSELF TO BE FORCED INTO TAKDNG MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE NORTHERN TRIBAL REGIONS BECAUSE AL-HAMDIS FEARS THE "LONG WRM CONSEQUENCES" THIS WOULD HAVE ON SUADI/YEMENI RELATIONS. SAID SAID THAT WHILE HE WILL CONTINUE TO URGE THE PRESIDENT TO TAKE STRONG MEASURES TO PROOTECT THE REGIME HE HOPED THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT IN AL-HAMDI THEY HAVE THEIR BEST

FRIEND AND THAT IF AL-HAMDI IS OVERTHROWN BECAUSE OF HIS CAUTION AND PRO-SAUDI POLICIES, HIS SUCCESSOR MIGHT WELL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.

3. SAID EXPLAINED THAT THE SAUDIS MUST CONTINUE AND INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY. ON THE MILITARY SIDE ESPECIALLY THE SAUDIS MUST SUPPORT IMPROVEMENT NOT ONLY OF THE GROUND FORCES BUT OF THE YEMENI AIRFORCE IN ORDER THAT YEMEN CAN DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST THE THREAT WHICH STILL COMES TO IT FROM THE SOUTH AND ITS EXTREMIST IDEOLOGY. SAID EMPHASIZED THAT YEMEN HAS NO AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS ON ANYONE BUT MUST STRENGTHEN ITS ARMY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES. SAID SAID THAT AT THE SAME TIME THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MUST EXTEND ITS AUTHORITY THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY AND THE SAUDIS SHOULD ALSO SUPPORT THIS EFFORT WHILE STOPPING THEIR SUBVENTIONS TO TRIVIAL LEADERS IN THE NORTH WHO ARE TOO STUPID TO RELAIZE THEY ARE BEING USED BY LEFTISTS NOT ONLY AGAINST AL-HAMDI BUT AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL.

4. COMMENT: SAID HAS GOOD ACCESS TO PRESIDENT AL-HAMDI AND IS IN AN EXCELLENT POSITION TO REPORT ACCURATELY AL-HAMDI'S MOODS AND THINKING. ALHAMDI'S CAUTION, AS DESCRIBED BY SAID, IS CHARACTERISTIC. THUS, WHILE THERE IS NO DOUBT GROWING PRESSURE ON HIM OT MOVE AGAINST THE NORTHERN TRIBAL DISSIDENTS, IT IS QUITE LIKELY THAT AL-HAMDI WILL EXHAUST ALL POLTICAL MEANS BEFORE MAKING

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A FINAL DECISION TO MOVE MILITARILY.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSASSINATION, POLITICAL STABILITY, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, EMERGENCY PLANNING, TRIBAL DISORDERS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0657
Format: TEL
From: SANA
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2736655
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTER OF STATE ON INTERNAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, YE, (SAID, AHMAD ABDU), (AL-AHJRI, QADI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d4c30a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009